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Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## FOREWORD

The accomplishments of the Vermont State and County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees during 1973 are presented in this annual report.

The information relative to the various ASCS programs administered in Vermont provides a reference for readers and explains to the people we serve how USDA programs are handled by our organization.

We wish to pay tribute to the dedicated State, county and community committeemen who make the operation of these programs so successful. We also wish to commend the work of our efficient ASCS County Executive Directors.

We are proud of the fact that Vermont has been one of the leading states in (ACP) REAP participation. If any reader has any questions about our program, please feel free to contact us.

### Vermont State ASC Committee

John W. Clark, Chairman  
Laurence O. Allen  
Donald W. Harlow, member  
R. P. Davison, Extension Service

### State Office

A. F. Heald, State Executive Director  
G. T. Hart, District Director  
1/ E. E. Gifford, Jr., District Director  
W. A. Wilson, Program Assistant  
M. R. Hart, Program Technician  
C. H. Campbell, Secretary Stenographer  
C. L. Seale, Clerk Stenographer

1/ Through 6/30/73



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## ADMINISTRATION

The Vermont State ASC Committee is responsible for the administration of ASCS activities assigned to them by the Department of Agriculture.

These programs are administered in Vermont at all levels in the organization by ASC farmer committeemen. Farmers in each community elect annually from their number a community committee of three to carry out the programs and do the field work in their community. Any person is eligible to vote in an ASC community election if he meets any of the following requirements:

- A Is of legal voting age and has an interest in a farm as owner or tenant.
- B Is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.
- C Is eligible to participate in any ASCS program that is provided for by law regardless of the status of funding.

The community committeemen also serve as delegates to attend a county convention at which a county committee of three is elected. The county agricultural agent serves as an ex officio member of the county committee.

The county committee administers the programs at the county level within the policies and guides set up by the State Committee. Each county committee employs a full-time county executive director who is in charge of the day-to-day operation of the county ASCS office.

The State Committee is appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is responsible for the administration and operation of all applicable programs in the State. This Committee determines the policies and makes recommendations to be carried out by a State Executive Director who is the administrative head of the State ASCS Office. Our county offices are currently being supervised by District Director George T. Hart.



County Committee Members and County Executive  
Directors who Served during Calendar Year 1973

<u>County</u>	<u>COC</u>	<u>CED</u>
Addison	Elwin H. Grant Harold F. Ash Roger L. Quesnel	Edla S. Browne
Bennington	William Strohmaier Leon B. Edgerton Charles B. Palmer	Robert E. Rudd
Caledonia	Kenneth E. Ward Lloyd Patterson Roland Simpson	Claire B. Voyer
Chittenden	Thomas Bushey John Whitcomb John White	Dorothy R. Howard Jeannine G. Thibault (acting)
Essex	Oscar St. Laurent Basil Hill S. Fox Hodgdon	Richard W. Pratt
Franklin	Raymond McNall John Shedd Robert Howrigan Roland Gervais	Avis B. Maynard
Grand Isle	Paul Quintin Armand Blow Donald Chamberlain Leroy Rowe	Grace E. Cameron
Lamoille	Lawrence E. Gregory Halbert C. Stancliffe John Maloney	Fern Vize
Orange	Harold A. Carpenter Robert J. Churchill F. Milo Leighton	Louise Rand
Orleans	Bruce Willson Henry Dagesse Richard Ingalls	Carolyn B. Rowland
Rutland	M. Perry Ketcham Burgess C. Book James B. Walker	Bethany G. French Charles R. Mason



Washington	Max L. Gray Paul H. Hartshorn Herbert Cane	Anne L. Moeykens (acting)
Windham	Robert E. Gaines George E. Ranney Emery C. Evans	Hudson R. Berce
Windsor	Trafton M. Hoisington Frederick H. Ladd Roger W. Eastman	Cecelia I. Grover



## RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### Administration

The Rural Environmental Assistance Program, formerly the Agricultural Conservation Program, is authorized by an Act of Congress and came into existence in 1936. The program recognizes the need for additional conservation of our soil, water, air, and forest resources. It sets up a system whereby the Government and farmers can join together in a program of conservation. This provides for a farmer-consumer effort to encourage and financially help farmers to carry out needed conservation practices so that the Nation's farms may continue to produce in the future.

The State Handbook of Practices is drawn up and approved by the State Committee, working with the National and State Forest Service representatives, and the State Soil Conservationist. The provisions and practices are within the framework of the National Handbook.

The program is administered through the locally-elected county and community committeemen. There are 42 county Committeemen and 372 community committeemen serving the program as it is operated in Vermont at the present time. Through this service they develop qualities of leadership which are a valuable asset to the community and state.

### 1972 REAP

The Congress approved the extension of the 1972 REAP through June 30, 1973. This extension applied to agricultural producers who were prevented from timely performing eligible 1972 REAP practices because of adverse weather conditions.

This action permitted Vermont farmers to carry out these practices which they had planned and resulted in full use of Vermont's 1972 allocation of program funds which was \$901,000.

### 1973 REAP

This program which was announced late in November 1972 was cancelled on December 22, 1972. Vermont had an allocation of \$638,000. We obligated about \$100,000. Latest information indicates that we will use about \$60,000 on 400 farms.





Technical Service Agreements (1973 Program)

Ten counties entered into agreements with the Soil Conservation Service and 11 with the Vermont Forest Service for the purpose of obtaining technical assistance in connection with practices for which these agencies have technical responsibility. The amounts transferred under these agreements are listed below:

<u>County</u>	<u>SCS-5%</u> <u>1973</u>	<u>FS-1%</u> <u>1973</u>
Addison	\$ 4565	\$ ---
Bennington	247	69
Caledonia	361	10
Chittenden	96	46
Essex	----	----
Franklin	----	100
Grand Isle	325	52
Lamoille	199	253
Orange	----	----
Orleans	892	48
Rutland	228	35
Washington	----	50
Windham	55	34
Windsor	<u>52</u>	<u>23</u>
Total	\$ 1020	\$ 720



## EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES

### Emergency Livestock Feed Program

This program was activated in Vermont as a result of growing conditions in the fall of 1972. All 14 counties participated. The program was continued through June of 1973. A summary of the program follows this page.

### Emergency Conservation Measures

As a result of the June-July 1973 flood, the Vermont State Committee requested the activation of the ECM program in Vermont. This program shares the cost of debris removal, streambank work and other emergency practices. The program was made available to all Vermont counties except Grand Isle. About \$500,000 in funds was obligated for approved practices through December 31, 1973. The program has been continued through June 30, 1974.

### Fuel and Fertilizer

County offices have been monitoring supplies of fuel and fertilizer since early 1973. ASCS personnel provided information and forms to agricultural users of petroleum products to assist them in obtaining the necessary fuel to produce food and fiber.

### USDA Emergency Board

The State ASCS Executive Director is chairman of the State USDA Emergency Board, and the county executive directors are chairmen of County Emergency Boards. ASCS State and county offices act as support offices for emergency activities of the Department.

In addition to acting as chairmen and support offices of the Boards, ASCS has the responsibility of assisting in food production and distribution through the wholesale level in case of national emergency. Much planning has gone into this work in order that we may be prepared in any emergency. We are working closely with State and local Civil Defense officials in these activities. Community committeemen can help by assisting in local Civil Defense activities.

### WATER BANK PROGRAM (Addison County only)

This program is designed to encourage preservation of wetlands and the providing of needed habitat for nesting and breeding places for migratory waterfowl. It provides for a small rental payment each year to eligible farmers for setting aside "wetlands" on their farms for waterfowl use.

In 1972 Addison County had 25 contracts on 1887 acres. Payments amounted to \$12030.

In 1973 the program was announced and later cancelled.

The program for 1974 has been announced and Addison County has \$14000 available. Signup was completed February 15.



Vermont State ASCS Office  
December 11, 1973

EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK FEED PROGRAM SALES THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1973  
(Final Report)

	C. C. C. Grain Delivery Order (Cwt.)		Dealers Grain Warrant (Cwt.)		Total Cwt.		Total Cwt.
	Corn	Oats	Corn	Oats	Corn	Oats	All Grain
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Addison	45856	40939	124671	81743	170527	122682	293209
Bennington	1209	985	9580	10620	10789	11605	22394
Caledonia	-----	-----	15868	15042	15868	15042	30910
Chittenden	11005	10881	39726	16939	50731	27820	78551
Essex	-----	-----	13022	11059	13022	11059	24081
Franklin	18048	10690	69096	63068	87144	73758	160902
Grand Isle	4079	3405	12044	12985	16123	16390	32513
Lamoille	726	642	24795	22563	25521	23205	48726
Orange	152	38	41643	43327	41795	43365	85160
Orleans	7663	5581	42804	60341	50467	65922	116389
Rutland	8761	8261	46720	42109	55481	50370	105851
Washington	550	720	25632	24827	26182	25547	51729
Windham	6800	7314	15599	17136	22399	24450	46849
Windsor	5494	8147	17295	20504	22789	28651	51440
Total	110343	97603	498495	442263	608838	539866	1148704
							or
							57435.2 tons

x 1.73/cwt. x 1.44/cwt.

\$1053289.74 \$777407.04

Total \$1,830,696.78

Collected from farmers  
by the County Offices



## FEED GRAIN PROGRAM

Vermont State ASCS Office  
February 19741973  
Summary of Feed Grain Program  
Vermont

County (1)	Farms		Feed Grain Base		Set-aside Pymt.	
	Eligible (2)	Participating (3)	Eligible (4)	Participating (5)	Acreage (6)	Amount (7)
Addison	519	26	11759	559	77	\$6522
Bennington	125	41	1990	820	74	9564
Caledonia	252	36	1624	238	17	1899
Chittenden	218	109	5226	3092	169	15022
Essex	12	1	108	10	1	94
Franklin	444	32	5467	444	38	3675
Grand Isle	135	42	2481	1118	109	12351
Lamoille	128	13	1297	198	18	2160
Orange	255	21	2391	174	17	1918
Orleans	194	26	1546	280	20	2320
Rutland	437	48	5119	801	64	7827
Washington	188	31	1714	420	42	4646
Windham	126	37	2517	1136	90	11992
Windsor	<u>336</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>2721</u>	<u>777</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>6963</u>
State Total	3262	514	43838	10067	779	\$99868

In 1973 Vermont Farmers were eligible to participate in the Feed Grain Program for the thirteenth year. The program was designed to reduce the production of feed grain crops which are in temporary surplus. Vermont farmers were eligible to receive payment for setting aside acres formerly producing corn including silage corn, barley and grain sorghums.





# CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Food and Agriculture Act of 1965, among other things, provided for long-time diversion of land currently being used for the production of surplus crops to protective uses.

This program helped farmers to divert cropland to protective conservation uses under long-term agreements. Land was taken out of crop production in 1966 and 1967 for periods of five to ten years. Participants received adjustment payments calculated as a portion of the value of the crops which otherwise would be produced on the land. They were eligible for conservation cost-share payments on the diverted land.

The status of agreements as of 12-21-73 is:

<u>County</u>	<u>Number Agreements</u>	<u>Acres Diverted</u>	<u>Annual Payments</u>
Addison	0	0	\$ 0
Bennington	9	276	4304
Caledonia	3	74	394
Chittenden	6	170	4538
Essex	1	85	508
Franklin	2	121	706
Grand Isle	3	65	1649
Lamoille	0	0	0
Orange	6	70	2102
Orleans	2	41	582
Rutland	5	127	2103
Washington	1	5	40
Windham	1	28	960
Windsor	<u>2</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>1006</u>
Totals	41	1094	\$18892

Practice Payments amounted to \$2051.



## PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAMS

In the field of price support, the Vermont ASC Committee has concerned itself with keeping up to date on the over-all activities of the various price support programs that would affect the State's agriculture, such as those for dairy products, honey, wheat, corn, and the purchase and loan programs. Information on these has been passed along to the county offices and, through publicity the farmers have been kept informed.

### WHEAT STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The 1973 Wheat Program provided for an acreage set-aside requirement equal to 86 percent of the farm domestic wheat allotment. The 1973 National wheat allotment of 18.7 million acres represented the acreage necessary to produce 535 million bushels of wheat.

In Vermont there are 18 farms with wheat allotments - 9 in Addison County; 2 in Chittenden County; and 7 in Grand Isle County. Six farms participated in the 1973 program - 1 in Addison County; 3 in Grand Isle County and 2 in Chittenden County.

### WOOL PROGRAM

We administer the National Wool Incentive Program which was originally authorized by Congress in 1954. The purpose of this program is to assure an adequate supply of domestically grown wool in this country.

Producers of wool in our State have applied to the county ASCS office each year for incentive payments on the wool they produce.

A summary of the 1972 wool program for Vermont shows that 123 applications for shorn wool were received from sheep producers. Applications for payment on 33,136 pounds of shorn wool resulted in payments of \$13,175. Payments of \$1,073 were made on 72,478 pounds of unshorn lambs. The payment rate is set each year and is dependent upon the average price received by all wool producers in the United States who apply for payment. The rate of payment is applied to each producer's net proceeds received for wool. This results in the producer's attempting to get the best possible price for his product.

The National support rate for 1972 was 72¢ a pound.

The program has been continued by Congress through 1977.

Counties have been advised that it appears no payments will be required on 1973 marketings. Therefore, all work on the program has been suspended.



Vermont Summary of Wool Program  
1972 Marketing Year

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<u>County</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Appl.</u> <u>Payt.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u> <u>Wool</u> <u>Sold</u>	<u>Net</u> <u>Proceeds</u> <u>To Farmer</u>	<u>Ave.</u> <u>Price</u> <u>Per Lb.</u>	<u>Govt.</u> <u>Payment</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>Appl.</u> <u>Payt.</u>	<u>Wt.</u> <u>Lambs</u> <u>Sold</u>	<u>Govt.</u> <u>Payment</u>
Add.	7	2194	732	\$ .33	765	2	6908	102
Benn.	7	3003	1027	.34	1072	1	18502	274
Caled.	12	2754	933	.34	974	1	845	13
Chitt.	7	1457	578	.40	600	-	---	---
Essex	2	283	84	.30	88	2	2475	37
Franklin	2	364	135	.37	140	1	170	3
Gr. Isle	1	536	162	.30	170	1	3440	51
Lamoille	-	---	---	---	---	-	---	---
Orange	24	3763	1811	.48	1868	5	2060	30
Orleans	2	847	351	.41	363	1	2982	44
Rutland	21	9925	4032	.41	4181	6	33680	498
Wash.	9	3027	1090	.36	1135	2	802	12
Windham	10	2582	929	.36	968	1	478	7
Windsor	19	2401	815	.34	851	1	136	2
Total	123	33136	12679	.38	13175	24	72478	1073

The 1972 marketing year incentive rate - 105.7% of net proceeds on shorn wool and \$1.48 per cwt. liveweight on unshorn lambs.

Wool Payments Made in Vermont  
1955 - 1972

<u>Year</u>	<u>National</u> <u>Average</u> <u>Price</u>	<u>Shorn Wool</u>			<u>Unshorn Lambs</u>		
		<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Rate of</u> <u>Payment</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Rate of</u> <u>Payment</u> <u>(Cwt.)</u>	<u>Payment</u>
1955	42.8¢	49000	42.8%	\$10171	142000	77¢	\$1194
1956	44.3¢	56148	40.0%	9974	192377	71¢	1101
1957	53.7¢	55716	15.5%	4550	151286	33¢	499
1958	36.4¢	49712	70.3%	13494	162082	\$1.02	1647
1959	43.3¢	67057	43.2%	13204	145051	75¢	1154
1960	42.0¢	52579	47.6%	12855	147619	80¢	1180
1961	42.9¢	52174	44.5%	13582	108801	76¢	809
1962	47.7¢	44393	30.0%	7342	96607	57¢	507
1963	48.5¢	45292	27.8%	6465	68785	54¢	396
1964	53.2¢	44464	16.5%	4200	86654	35¢	303
1965	47.1¢	45884	31.6%	7465	76560	60¢	419
1966	52.1¢	40797	24.8%	6204	93402	52¢	426
1967	39.8¢	34632	65.8%	10579	66223	\$1.05	695
1968	40.5¢	39995	65.4%	11143	81643	\$1.06	864
1969	41.8¢	29016	65.1%	6804	59801	\$1.09	651
1970	35.5¢	31993	102.8%	14210	68583	\$1.46	1000
1971	19.4¢	31723	271.1%	28686	94665	\$2.10	1877
1972	35.0¢	33136	105.7%	13175	72478	\$1.48	1073





### BEEKEEPERS INDEMNITY PROGRAM

This program was authorized in Section 804 of the Agriculture Act of 1970. It covers losses during the period of January 1, 1967, through December 31, 1973.

Vermont beekeepers were informed of the provisions of the program in July of 1971.

Applications for retroactive losses had to be filed with the County ASCS office on or before February 29, 1972.

A beekeeper suffering a loss of bees through no fault of his own as a result of the use of pesticides near or adjacent to where his beehives are located may file a claim with the County office.

Committeemen should inform beekeepers to file promptly following each loss. For current losses, the owner will have to have a signed statement from a State inspector certifying the loss.

To date, we have had 20 applications from beekeepers with payments amounting to \$10,695. 18 of these applications were from Addison County.

### INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The memorandum of understanding with the Vermont Extension Service to edit and arrange for final release to State and county newspapers information concerning ASCS programs in Vermont was continued. This method is very satisfactory, and the Vermont Extension Service information staff is always cooperative in this respect.

Radio tapes were made during the year using Extension Service facilities and these were released to radio stations throughout Vermont. In addition, several radio programs were arranged for at the county level and were participated in by State office personnel and local ASCS people.

The monthly newsletter (green sheet) distributed to county and community committeemen and cooperating agencies was continued in 1973. These letters are a method of pointing out the highlights of ASCS programs in Vermont.

At the beginning of programs, and on other occasions as needed, suggested county news releases were provided to county offices. These were adapted locally and released for publication through the County Extension Office. In addition, timely ASCS news and announcements were disseminated locally through the county agent, either in his radio program, newsletter, or column in the newspaper.

Washington continued to supply Vermont radio stations with weekly tapes. These tapes deal with ASCS current developments relative to agriculture in this part of the United States. The 3 to 5 minute narrations do a good job in helping to keep our agricultural community informed.







